

WILSON FINAL ARBITER ON NAVY HONOR AWARDS

President to Have Last Say After Knight Board Re- views Its List.

CONGRESS PROBE SURE

Refusals by Admirals Mayo, Jones and Decker and Capt. Hasbrouck.

President Wilson will have the final say in the settlement of the controversy precipitated by Admiral Sims' refusal to accept the Distinguished Service Cross awarded him by Secretary of the Navy Daniels.

This statement was made yesterday by Secretary Daniels, who declared the Naval Board of Award would be reconvened for the express purpose of reviewing every case, and that its final findings would be sent to the White House. In the event the President does not exercise the right of review, it is evident that the report of the board will be final.

In view of the fact that the board struck off thirteen of the nineteen names suggested for the Distinguished Medal by Admiral Sims and substituted the navy cross, it is not believed it will reverse itself.

Investigation by Congress.

Congress, however, will go ahead with its investigation of the controversy.

Secretary Daniels yesterday made public the text of letters received from Admirals Mayo and Jones, Rear Admiral Decker and Capt. R. D. Hasbrouck.

Admiral Jones, Rear Admiral Decker and Capt. Hasbrouck decline to receive the navy crosses awarded them, and Admiral Mayo, who was commander of the Atlantic fleet during the war, wrote a very temperate letter to the Secretary under the date of December 23 in which he suggests a review and reconsideration of meritorious cases, and Secretary Daniels has apparently followed this suggestion.

Admiral Mayo complains that his recommendations for awards for his staff officers were not adopted by either the Board of Award or the Secretary.

Mayo states attitude.

Admiral Mayo's attitude is given in the following paragraph of his letter: "Efficient staff work is absolutely indispensable to the conduct of high command. Officers who stand out

CONTINUED ON PAGE THREE.

BRIDE SAYS OSBORNE ALIENATED HER HUSBY

Portsmouth, N. H., Dec. 27.—Lieut. Comdr. Thomas Mott Osborne, prison reformer and commandant of the United States Navy Prison here, was today named as defendant in a suit for \$25,000 damages by Julia V. Mulane of Portsmouth who charges Comdr. Osborne with alienation of her husband's affections.

She declares in papers in her suit filed today that after she had been married two days to Chief Yeoman William J. Duffy who is said to be a close friend of Comdr. Osborne, the latter influenced Duffy to leave her, Duffy later married Helen M. Healey who was formerly the Mulane girl's chum.

Duffy and his second bride were living together as man and wife when both were arrested. They are now under bail.

AT WASHINGTON THEATERS

Shubert-Belasco—"Joan of Arkansas."
Poli's—Frank Tinney in "Some Time."
National—"A Prince There Was."
Shubert-Garrick—"Bucking the Tiger."
Crandall's Metropolitan—Geraldine Farrar in "Flame of the Desert."
Moore's Rialto—Alice Brady in "The Fear Market."
Loew's Palace—Wallace Reid in "Hawthorne of the U. S. A."
Moore's Strand—Leah Baird in "The Capitol."
Loew's Columbia—Dorothy Dalton in "His Wife's Friend."
Cosmos—Continuous vaudeville and pictures.
Crandall's Knickerbocker—Geraldine Farrar in "Flame of the Desert."
B. F. Keith's—Vaudeville.
Crandall's—Blanche Sweet in "A Woman of Pleasure."
Moore's Garden—"Every woman."
The Coliseum—Roller Skating.
Gayety—Burlesque; "Best Show in Town."
Folly—Burlesque; "The World Beaters."

Women's City Club Smokers Granted Cigarette Privilege In Special Clubhouse Room

Washington women smoke, or if they do not themselves enjoy an occasional whiff at a fragrant "tag," they have no serious objections to other members of their sex doing so.

Agitation among the members of the newly-organized Women's City Club for a smoking room in the clubhouse at 22 Jackson place began almost as soon as they were settled in their new headquarters, and during the ten weeks of the club's history has gained such force that the house committee now is furnishing an attractive room on the third floor, where the members can smoke to their hearts' content.

The attitude of the club members, representing practically every class and every profession, is held to be fairly typical of the women of the National Capital. There are at present nearly three thousand members enrolled on the club's roster.

Was Home Women's Demand.

The demand for the smoking room came, much to the surprise of the members of the board, from the "home women," who declared as they were accustomed to smoke in their own homes and in the homes of their friends, they did not see why they should not be permitted to smoke at their club.

In making their plea before the board they pointed out that a smoking room would not only be for the comfort of the members who cared to smoke, but would provide a place where members could indulge in a

CONTINUED ON PAGE THREE.

KEPT SPAIN OUT OF WAR, SAYS DECKER

Rear Admiral, Declining Naval Cross, Tells Dan- iels He Deserves Better.

Spain was about to enter the war against the United States when the great German drive on the Western front was launched in March, 1918, according to a letter to Secretary Daniels from Rear Admiral Benton C. Decker, commandant of the Seventh naval district, made public last night.

In his letter, which was a refusal to accept the navy cross, Decker said that, as naval attaché at the American Embassy at Madrid at the time, he prevented Spain's entrance into the war against this country, and brought about a reduction of German submarine activities off the coast of Spain.

Surprise to Officials.

Decker's letter caused great surprise in official circles. With its release for publication by the Navy Department.

CONTINUED ON PAGE THREE.

BETRAYED LAND FOR VAMP'S LOVE

64-Year Old Frenchman "Would Turn Traitor Ten Times Over."

Paris, Dec. 27.—The irresistible fascination of a beautiful German woman spy who operated at Lille during the German occupation of that city was described today at the trial by court-martial of M. Blanquart, a 64-year-old Frenchman, who is accused of communicating important information to the enemy.

"She was the living image of Circe," declared Blanquart, when he took the stand in his own defense. "Her beauty bewitched me. In the madness of my love for her I would have betrayed France ten times over. I defy any red blooded man to have resisted her spell."

The spy was known as "the blond lady," but is reported to have been the daughter of Gen. von Heinrich, former German military governor of Lille.

Blanquart's defense is that he became temporarily insane through his love for the German vampire.

China Would Outdo Japan In Entertaining Gleaves

China's invitation to Admiral Gleaves and his staff to be the guests of the Peking government twelve days was made with a view to surpassing the entertainment extended the American officers by Japan, where they were guests six days, the time of the visit to each country having been fixed by Admiral Gleaves himself.

Admiral Gleaves probably will accept the Chinese invitation, as this will carry with it no discourtesy to the Japanese government, while satisfying the wishes of China. The incident has caused some amusement to diplomats here.

Gen. McIntyre's Siberian Trip to Uncover Conditions

Maj. Gen. Frank McIntyre, former Assistant Chief of Staff and now chief of the Bureau of Insular Affairs, will leave Washington for San Francisco early this week en route to the Philippines and Siberia.

It is expected that Gen. McIntyre will make a full report to the War Department on the situation in Siberia, especially as it affects American troops. His first duty will be to report and confer with Maj. Gen. Graves, the commanding officer of the American forces in Siberia. He also will make an extended tour of the Philippines.

LANSING'S OFFICE TO BE IMPROVED ON LARGE SCALE

Activities to Be Enlarged Upon Receipt of Appro- priation by Congress.

BOOST FOREIGN TRADE

Department May Be Ar- ranged on General Lines Of British Office.

The State Department is planning on a large scale reorganization of its own activities as soon after the first of the year as funds can be obtained for the purpose from Congress.

During the war at least four specific duties of the department were lost in the shuffle of efficiency, and the results have been anything but good for the nation at large. This is how the department was stripped of four of its foremost activities:

1. Foreign propaganda was turned over to the Committee on Public Information and the Army Military Intelligence.

2. All details of the preparation of the Paris Peace Conference, together with practically its entire personnel, were duties vested in Col. E. M. House, who was sent to Paris by the President, and who later was one of the members of the American peace delegation.

3. War trade activities were transferred to the War Trade Board when it was brought into existence.

4. Foreign loans were handled almost entirely by the Treasury Department.

Loaned Without Conditions.

In connection with foreign loans it may be said that the United States government, although it extended credits totaling the unheard-of sum of nearly \$10,000,000,000, gave away this tremendous amount of money without imposing a single condition on the borrowers.

A case in point on our short-sighted policy in the Azores Islands. When the war was in progress we fortified one of the Azores, and government officials believed that when hostilities came to an end, the United States

CONTINUED ON PAGE THREE.

1,400 LOSE JOBS IN RAIL RELEASE

Branches of Administration Will Turn Loose Office Forces in D. C.

Approximately 1,400 employees of the United States Railroad Administration will be forced to seek new jobs on or before March 1, the date on which the railroads are to be returned to private operation.

The release of Federal control of railroads and systems of transportation will result in the gradual dissolution of the operating branches of the administration, comprising the great majority of the executives, clerks, stenographers and typists employed by the Railroad Administration in Washington.

The financial branch of the administration will probably be continued for several months after the return of the roads is effected.

Director General Hines' plan for the future have not been announced, and while it is probable that he will be retained for many months in the government service as confidential adviser on the many knotty railroad financing problems which remained to be solved, he will eventually return to the Santa Fe as chairman of the executive committee.

Gazapcho, or We Strike, They Cry

Agricultural laborers in the South of Spain have threatened to strike unless the following demands are granted, according to consular advices received here yesterday:

A daily wage of \$1.93.

Three meals a day, consisting of eggs and meat for breakfast, soup and meat stew for lunch, and bacon, green vegetables and a dish of gazapcho for supper.

Hours, from sunrise to sunset, with two hours for a siesta, 40 minutes for each meal, three smoking periods of 20 minutes.

And a bed with two mattresses.

Gazapcho, a dish which Spanish workmen prize highly, consists of stale bread, soaked in a mixture of vinegar, oil and water, and is very savory.

WOOD ALCOHOL KILLS 192; MANY BLINDED BY POISON SUBSTITUTES FOR LIQUOR

DEATH AND BLINDNESS MARK TRAIL OF BOOTLEGGER POISON

Incomplete reports show the following results of wood alcohol poisoning since July 1:

New York—Fifty-two dead; 100 blind.
Chicagope, Mass.—Thirty-seven dead; seven seriously ill.
Cleveland—Fourteen dead; sixteen ill.
Hartford, Conn.—Thirteen dead; nine seriously ill.
Newark, N. J.—Five dead.
Holyoke, Mass.—Ten dead; ten seriously ill.
Chicago—Eight dead; six ill.
Springfield, Mass.—Three dead; five seriously ill.
Syracuse, N. Y.—Two dead.
Emporium, Pa.—Two dead.
Richmond, Va.—One dead.
Detroit, Mich.—Twenty-five dead.

Simple Test to Detect Poison In Drinks Being Sought Here

Average of Three Cases of Wood Alcohol Prostration Received Daily at Asylum Hospital—Police Active in Combatting Spread of Plague—Warning by Col. Har- per.

Three cases of wood-alcoholism, on an average, were received every day last week at the Washington Asylum Hospital, and District officials have awakened to the serious trend of the epidemic. So far no deaths have been reported.

In an effort to discover a simple test whereby thirsty Washingtonians may ascertain whether drinks sold

them contain poisonous alcohol distilled from wood, chemists in the Hygienic Laboratory, Public Health Service, began yesterday an extensive research.

Warning against use of wood alcohol to furnish "get-up-and-go" for soft cider, sarsaparilla and near-beer was issued last night by the Washington Chamber of Commerce through its president, Col. Robert N. Harper.

"Wood alcohol is a poison and persons selling it for drinking purposes should be vigorously prosecuted," declared Col. Harper.

Vital Statistics Scanned.

Scrutiny of daily vital statistics will be made by officials of the district health department to find if any deaths due to wood alcoholism occur in Washington.

Authorities at the Washington Asylum Hospital consider it "miraculous" that no deaths have been reported.

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO.

Typhus Added To Horrors of Ghastly Vienna

Once Gay Capital Is Slowly Becoming Depopulated. Cold Adds Terrors.

Vienna, Dec. 27.—An epidemic of typhus and scurvy has broken out here, adding to the terrors of famine and freezing cold. Slowly but surely this city—once one of the gayest capitals of Europe—is being depopulated.

As the new year approaches the remaining population sees nothing but the grim specter of death hovering over it like a menacing, black cloud.

The Christmas dinner of 90 per cent of the population consisted of sour cabbage and a few crusts of moldy bread. Not 5 per cent of the people tasted meat.

Dogs and cats are rapidly disappearing from private houses and are being eaten. Horse flesh is considered a delicacy to be enjoyed only by the rich. A widespread crime wave is accompanying the other dreadful horrors to which the capital is subjected.

Frantic appeals are being sent to the outside world to give aid for it is feared that the city will be a vast grave yard by spring unless help is forthcoming.

FOOD, NOT ART, IS VIENNA'S CRY

Austria Wants to Pledge Gorgeous \$50,000,000 Treasure.

Liverpool, England, Dec. 27.—The Austrian government's plan to feed starving Vienna by pledging art treasures of the former emperor for foodstuffs, is being presented to French, British and American syndicates, it was learned today.

A. Phillips, of Liverpool, who has just returned from Vienna, is trying to get England to recognize the deal by considering these art treasures outside of the scope of the peace treaty as relating to the payment of indemnities.

"These Austrian art objects are gorgeous beyond description and are worth more than \$50,000,000," said Mr. Phillips. "There are tapestries from Austrian palaces, silverware by the hundredweight, pictures, elegant metal work and orfèverie in a dozen shapes. The Austrian government is willing to earmark all money received from these art treasures for food alone."

Prosecutors to Ask Death Penalty for Deadly Drug Venders

Scores Afflicted With Serious Illness in Cities Throughout Country—Deadly Beverage That Claimed Lives in New England Traced to New York—Arrests Made on Manslaughter Charges—Federal Agencies Active Against Widespread Plague.

A new plague threatens the country—wood alcohol poisoning. Incomplete reports from various cities show that since prohibition went into effect July 1 at least 192 persons have been killed and more than 150 are blind or seriously ill as the result of drinking wood alcohol, either deliberately or as the result of it being mixed with "whisky."

Until Christmas the plague was insidious in its action, one or two deaths occurring here and there several days apart and attracting little or no attention.

Shipment Starts Epidemic.

Then a shipment of adulterated "whisky" from New York into New England started an epidemic of poisoning that already has cost the lives of fifty-six men and one woman and brought scores of others close to death.

The poisoning cases in New England resulted in a series of investigations that are rapidly spreading throughout the country and the belief was expressed last night that deaths from wood alcohol poisoning in the United States may be found to have totaled several hundred.

Federal, State and city officials were co-operating in searching out those guilty of manufacturing the adulterated liquor and, at the same time, warning against all "bootleggers."

PRESIDENT IS 63; PLANS QUIET DAY

Miss Margaret, Mrs. Wilson Only Members of Family At the White House.

President Wilson is 63 years old today. He will celebrate the anniversary of his natal day very quietly. It was said at the White House last night.

Miss Margaret Wilson, his daughter, and Mrs. Wilson are the only members of the President's family at the White House. No others are expected to be present today.

Thousands of messages of congratulation began pouring into the Executive Mansion yesterday and last night.

The President seemed in good spirits yesterday. He was wheeled through his home in the wheel-chair he has used since he was able to leave his sick-bed.

One year ago today the President was in England with the American peace mission.

He was born in Staunton, Va., December 28, 1856.

ICE MAROONS 14; STARVING ON ISLE

Families of Two Lighthouse Keepers, With 3 Wireless Men, in Peril.

Quebec, Dec. 27.—Facing starvation, fourteen persons are marooned on Belle Isle, famous "sentinel of Canada," according to dispatches reaching here today.

Two lighthouse keepers, with their wives and children, and three Marconi operators are on the island and no provisions have reached them for several weeks because of storms and ice floes.

The Canadian steamer Montcalm left Rome Bay, N. E., today in an effort to reach the island.

Belle Isle is an important lighthouse station at the northern end of the straits of Belle Isle, between the northern peninsula of Newfoundland and Labrador.

ALLIES WILL TRY EX-CROWN PRINCE

London, Dec. 27.—No further action toward punishment of the former Kaiser was taken by British and French officials in their conference here to consider bringing Germans guilty of war crimes to justice, it is learned.

The former crown prince, however, was said to be among those charged with looting, robbery and violence in occupied France.

The allies have agreed upon a full list of German war criminals. It was learned, and will demand their surrender and trial as soon as the peace treaty becomes effective.

Auto Plunge From Bridge Kills Girl, Injures Woman

Lewistown, Pa., Dec. 27.—Florence Krapp, 14, of Center Hall, was drowned and Mrs. James Krapp slightly injured when an automobile in which they were riding was upset over Long Mountain bridge and fell into Laurel Run, near here, today, pinning Miss Krapp beneath the machine. Absence of chains was believed to have caused the accident.

Mail on Steamer Lost.

Announcement was made by the Postoffice Department yesterday that 558 sacks of parcel post mail consigned to Germany, Austria and Czechoslovakia were lost when the steamer Liberty Glow struck a mine off the coast of Holland. The mail accumulated in New York on November 19 and 20.

Pointexter to Make Swing Around Circle

Senator Pointexter, of Washington, candidate for the Republican nomination for President, announced last night that he will make a campaign tour early in the year in behalf of his candidacy.

He will make his first campaign in Rhode Island and New Hampshire, later going into Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, North and South Dakota. Subsequent tours will carry him into the South and Middle West and up and down the two coasts.